

GEN. ROSECRANS' VICTORY.

Details of the Battle Near Murfreesboro, Wednesday, Dec. 31.

Desperate Struggle and Victory of the Union Arms.

The Latest News from the Battle Field.

The Rebel Loss Between Twelve and Fifteen Thousand.

Attack on the Rear Guard of the Foe.

General Bragg Retreating to Chattanooga.

On Sunday and Tuesday the 20th and 22d last, were won our first victories, in getting the army in line and securing positions. The great contest commenced on Wednesday morning, the 23d ult., and an account of that day is given in full.

A general deal of misapprehension prevails in regard to the nature of the battle-fight at Murfreesboro, especially of that portion which was the scene of the bloody struggle on Wednesday.

Even the maps furnished to officers by the indefatigable corps of Topographical Engineers failed to exhibit correctly the features of the vicinity. The errors seem to be the confounding together of two distinct and separate streams—two rivers, which rises in the Northern part of Rutherford county, and flows past Stewart's Ferry, about directly north of the Cumberland, and Stone river, which takes its rise in the southern extremity of Rutherford and the eastern part of Campbell, and after traversing both of these and a portion of Davidson, enters the Cumberland about ten miles below the latter.

It is the western branch of the latter which flows past Murfreesboro, and constitutes the river of which such frequent mention must be made in all accounts of this battle.

No map I have ever yet seen represents correctly the position of this stream, and, of course, I had not my time to trace it out, but when our line of battle was formed in front of it, we on Wednesday morning, our left wing rested upon the river, and the men of Gen. Van Cleve's division filed their caissons with water from the same.

Gen. McRae's command, which is the right wing of the army, consists of three divisions—Gen. Johnson's, Gen. Avery's, and Gen. Sheridan's—posted from right to left, in the order in which I have named them; Johnson's and Avery's being thrown forward and to the right, so as to form a line which made a considerable angle with that of the remainder of the army.

Gen. Sheridan's division was withdrawn somewhat on the left, and acted as a reserve for the right of the centre, commanded by Gen. Thomas, but two divisions were present, Negley's and Rousseau's stationed from right to left, in the order in which I have named them; Rousseau's being somewhat withdrawn and constituting the reserve on the centre. The left wing of the army, under the command of Gen. Crittenden, was placed in the following order—Gen. Palmer on the right, Gen. West in the centre and Gen. Van Cleve on the left. A part of Palmer's and Gen. Van Cleve's division being thrown slightly forward.

The enemy's line stretched transversely across Stone river, from the lowest point on the right to the break in the road on their left. At the beginning of the battle it was considerably overlapped by our own right, when general Hardee had suddenly got into position. General Hardee commanded the rebel left, consisting of Generals Cheatham's, McCook's and White's divisions, McCook being on the extreme left of the wing and Cheatham in the centre. The wing was re-enforced Tuesday night by the addition of Cleburne's formerly bucker's division.

General Polk led the rebel right, consisting of Weston's and Breckinridge's divisions and Lieutenant General Kirby Smith led the division in the rebel centre. The division of Breckinridge was on the extreme rebel right. Beside these, there were several independent detachments; but it is extremely probable that with these and the reinforcements afterward received the rebel army did not outnumber even if it equalled our own.

The field or battle, in the centre, was mostly a plain, going toward Murfreesboro. There was a slight elevation or cleared ground on both sides of the turnpike, and some patches of woodland, sufficient to conceal the greater portion of our troops until they should be ready to advance.

On the left, some reinfledts extended to the river, and on the other side of the stream rose a low wooded hill.

The ground on the right was a succession of dense cedar thickets, with open spaces where the rocks came to the surface and would grow, bats of palmettoes, and small irregular shaped beds. The pines and redwood ran near each other.

In the elevated open space which formed the key to our position from a point where our line of battle crossed, a distant post on the railroad indicates that it is just twenty miles to Nashville. A number of houses were situated in different parts of the head, but none of them except the brick building of which I have no record, was buried the next day.

The sun has not yet risen on Wednesday morning when the firing commenced upon the right. The First Missouri battery, Captain Keeler, and his First Illinois, Captain Mo. gatlin, shelled the rebels out of a point of wood in front of their division, which now slightly advanced. The enemy threw himself upon Sheridan with terrible energy, but was twice repulsed.

Again he advanced, with larger numbers and greater desperation than before, and the rebels were compelled to give ground. It was only for a moment, however. The brave and noble Sill, assisted by sheer daring, soon rallied the retiring troops. The flashing banner of the rebels once more assumed, and although still purchased the victory with his life, the rebels were repulsed, and driven from this quarter of the field.

It was a few moments after eight when this occurred, and at the same time the sun broke forth through some cold-looking clouds and dashed a clear, bright light over the field. There had not elapsed even time to remove the body of the dead General, when all attention was directed to the opposite right.

Three divisions of the enemy—McCown's, Calhoun's and Cheatham's—had advanced in massive columns, and charged impetuously upon Johnson and Davis. A portion of the infantry in Johnson's division immediately broke almost, indeed, before they had taken their arms from the scabbard, and one of the batteries (zigzag) was taken before it fired the third round.

Poor Egerton! It was not his fault. A true, bold, brave young man is seldom found than he. It was his greatest ambition to take part in a battle, and I remember well how often and how earnestly he implored that separation from the old Third Division which prevented him from taking part in the bat-

tle of Perryville.

THE LATEST NEWS.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 7, 1863.

A special despatch from Murfreesboro, dated 6th inst.,

gives additional information of the demonstration of the rebel army.

General Breckinridge's division was terribly punished on Friday. General Breckinridge was wounded in the ear, and his Adjutant General killed.

Wounded rebel officers estimate their loss at from 12,000 to 15,000, with a great slaughter of leading officers. Col. Mulligan, of Tennessee, mortally wounded, is in the hospital here.

The body of General Simon was sent south today. General Simon's body was sent to Nashville.

The rebels' main guard was amounted at six o'clock on Saturday by General Stanley's cavalry. The rebels retreated with a loss of thirty.

A negro from General Bragg's headquarters, who left the rebels yesterday within five miles of Manchester, heard General Bragg say he would go to Chattanooga.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Jan. 7, 1863.

Our whole loss at Murfreesboro in killed, wounded and missing was not over 7,000. The rebel loss was from 12,000 to 15,000.

Our army is running the rebels. Our army yesterday, eight miles beyond Murfreesboro, reported a rebel wagon train captured eighteen miles to the west Murfreesboro yesterday.

The rebel General Raines was buried to day. No disinterment was allowed.

The bodies of General Hanson, Captain Todd, of the Sixth Kentucky, and Captain Ferguson, of the Louisville Legion, were brought to day.

Considerable quantities of contraband goods were captured by our pickets.

Weather cold. The river is on a stand.

THE RECEPTION OF GENERAL BUTLER.—A committee, selected from the Chamber of Commerce, met yesterday on No. 10, Exchange Buildings, for the purpose of making arrangements to receive General Butler in a public manner on his return to this city. Captain Marshall, occupied the chair, and the committee was in session for some time before they consented to admit the reporters of the public press. On their admission the chairman informed the reporters that he had received a telegram from General Butler, telling him to do as he pleased. Yester evening (to day), when he would confer with the committee as to whether he would consent to a public reception or not. It was understood from one of the members of the committee that General Butler had not participated in the protest against the committee, who had sent a telegram to General Butler, telling him to do as he pleased. The committee, however, induced him to meet in a different place.

THE EIGHTH OF JANUARY.—FARMERS SOCIETY.—The Committee of Farmers, consisting of Messrs. Moore, E. Purdy, Daniel F. Bell, Isaac Bell, Douglas Taylor and Peter R. Sweney, have decided to omit the usual celebration of the birthday of the Society, which falls on the 8th of January this year, in view of the recent events. They are to meet in the chamber of commerce at 7 P.M. on Wednesday evening, the 8th ult., and have a general meeting.

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF INDIAN HOSTILITIES.—Mr. W. H. Webb, (opp.) of N. Y., presented his petition to the Secretary of War to increase the compensation of certain citizens of Minnesota for the removal of Indians from the state, and the consequent expense of their removal. The bill was introduced by General Butler, from the Indiana Committee, reported back the position of certain citizens of Minnesota, who had incurred expense in removing Indians from the state, and the consequent expense of their removal. The bill was referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

THE RESIGNATION OF GENERAL BUTLER.—On Jan. 1, Major-General Butler, in a speech at the Library Academy at West Point, told the students that he had been appointed to the command of the Army of the Potomac.

THE RESIGNATION OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA.—Mr. A. G. Stephens, (opp.) of Ga., moved a bill to increase the number of soldiers enrolled therein, for a' who are enlisted in the naval service, and who otherwise might be liable to military service. Passed.

TO INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE MARINE CORPS.—Mr. Sherman, (rep.) of Pa., introduced a bill to further increase the efficiency of the marine corps.

THE RESIGNATION OF BRECKINRIDGE FROM THE ARMY.—

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PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.

SENATE.

Washington, Jan. 7, 1863.

WE APPROVE THE SENATE BILL.

Mr. Sherman, (rep.) of Pa., introduced a bill authorizing the accounting officers of the Treasury to make transfers of balances in certain cases. Referred.

REORGANIZING BRADLEY'S WIRE LINE.

Mr. Foote, (opp.) of Ill., presented his petition requesting the action of the Senate.

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